

A schort and general Confessioun of the trevv Christian Faith and Religion,

According to Goddis Word, and Actis of our Parliamentis: Subscryuit be the Kingis Maiestie, his houshold, his Nobilitie, and haill Estaitis of this Realme, to the glorie of GOD, and gude exampill of all men. At Edinburgh the 20. day of Januarie, 1580. And 14. year of his reigne.

WE all, and euerie ane of vs, vnderwritten, protest, that efter lang and dew examinatioun of our awin consciencis in maters of trew and false Religioun, ar now throughlie resolu'd in the treuth be the Spreit and Word of God: AND THERFOIR we beleif with our heartis, confes with our mouthis, & subscryue with our handis, and constantlie affirmis befor God, and the haill warld, that this is onlie the trew Christian Faith, and Religioun, pleising God, and bringing saluatioun to man, quhilk is now be the mercie of God reueiled to the warld be the preiching of the blissit Euangell, and is receiued, beleued, & defended be monie and sundrie notabill Kirkis and Realmes, bot cheiflie be the Kirk of Scotland, the Kingis Maiestie, and thre Estatis of this Realme, as Goddis eternall treuth and onlie ground of our saluatioun, as mair particularlie is exprest in the confessioun of our Faith, stablised and publiklie confirmed be sundry actis of Parliamentis, and now of a lang tyme hes bene openlie professed be the Kingis Maiestie and haill bodie of this Realme, baith in burgh and land. TO the quhilk confessioun, and forme of Religioun we willinglie aggrie in our consciencis in all pointis, as vnto Goddis vndouted treuth and veritie, grounded only vpon his written word. And therfoir we abhorre and detest all contrarious Religioun and Doctrine, bot cheiflie all kynd of Papistrie in generall, and particular headis, euen as they are now damned and confuted be the Word of God, and Kirk of Scotland. Bot in speciall we detest and refuse the vsurped authoritie of that Romaine Antichrist vpon the Scriptures of God, vpon the Kirk, the Ciuill Magistrates, and consciencis of men, al his tyrannous Lawis made vpon indifferent thingis aganis our Christian libertie: his erroneous Doctrine aganis the sufficiencie of the written Word, the perfectioun of the Lawe, the Office of Christ and his blissit Euangell, his corrupted Doctrine concerning originall sinne, our naturall inability, and rebellious to Goddis Law: his blasphemie aganis our Iustificatioun be Faith onlie, our imperfect sanctificatioun, and obedience to the Law, the nature, number, and vse of the haly Sacramentis. We detest his fyue bastard Sacramentis, with al his Rites, Ceremonies, and false Doctrine, added to the ministratioun of the trew Sacramentis, without the Word of God, his cruell iudgement aganis Infantis departing without the Sacrament, his absolute necessitie of Baptisme, his blasphemous opinioun of transsubstantiation or real presence of Christis bodie in the Elementis, and receiuing of the same be the wicked, or bodies of men, his dispensatiounis with solemn'd aithis, periuries, & degreis of Mariage forbidden in the Word, his crueltie aganis the innocent diuorced. We abhorre his Diuelishe Mes, his blasphemous Preistheid, his prophane Sacrifice for the sinnis of the deid and the quick, his Canonization of men, calling vpon Angellis or Saints departed, worshipping of Imagerie, Reliques, Croffes, dedicating of Kirkis, Altars, dayis, vowis to creaturis, his Purgatorie, prayer for the deid, praying or speiking in a strange language, his Processiounis, and blasphemous Letanie, his multitude of Aduocatis or Mediatouris, with his manifold ordouris, & auricular confessioun, his desperate and vncertaine Repentance, his generall & doutfull Faith, his satisfactioun of men for thair sinnis, his iustification be warkis, his *Opus operatum*, warkis of Supererogatioun, merit, pardons, peregrinationis, & stationis. We detest his prophane halie water, Baptizing of Bellis, coniuring of Spritis, crossing, sayning, annoynting, coiuring, hallowing of Goddis gude creaturis, with the superstitious opinioun ioyned thairwith, his warldlie Monarchie and wicked Hierarchie, his thre solemn'd vowis, with all his shauelings of sundrie fortis, his erroneous and bludie Decreis made at Trent, with al the subscryuers and approuers of that cruell and bludie band, coniured aganis the Kirk of God. And finallie we detest all his vaine Allegories, Rites, signis and traditionis brocht in to the Kirk, without, or aganis the Word of God, and Doctrine of this reformed Kirk. To the quhilk we ioyne our selfis willinglie, in Doctrine, Faith, Religioun, Discipline, & vse of the halie Sacramentis, as lyuelie members of the same in Christ our head: Promising, and sweiring Be the GREAT NAME OF THE LORD OVR GOD, that we sall continew in the obedience of the Doctrine & Discipline of this Kirk, & sal defend the same according to our Vocation & power, all the dayis of our lyfis, vnder the paines contained in the Law, & danger baith of bodie & saule in ye day of Goddis feirfull Iudgement. And seing that monie ar sleirit vp be Satan, and that Romaine Antichrist, to promise, sweir, subscryue, and for a tyme vse the halie Sacramentis in the Kirk deceitfullie aganis thair awin conscience, mynding heirby first vnder the externall cloke of Religioun, to corrupt and subuert secreitlie Goddis trew Religioun within the Kirk: and efterward, quhen time may serue, to becume open enemies & persecuters of the same, vnder vaine hope of Popishe dispensatioun, deuysed aganis the Word of God, to his greiter confusion, & thair dowbill cōdemnation in the day of the Lord Iesus. We thairfoir willing to tak away all suspition of Hypocrisie, & of sic double dealing with God & his Kirk, Protest, & call the sercher of all heartis for witnes, that our myndis & hearis do fullie agre with this our Confession, promise, aith, & subscription, sa that we ar not moued for ony warldlie respect, bot ar perswadit only in our consciencis throughe the knowlege and loue of Goddis trew Religioun imprented in our heartis be thy halie Spreit, as we sall answer to him in the day quhen the secreitis of all heartis sall be disclosed. And for samekill as the outward professioun of Religioun and subscription thairto, is nocht sufficient, except that our conuersatioun and behaviour be agreabill thairvnto: Thairfoir we and euerilk ane of vs promise faithfullie to behaue our selfis as trew professouris of this Gospel in euerilk respect. Sa that neither in publike, nor in priuate, directlie nor indirectlie, we sall impugn the veritie thairof be word or wryte; Bot sall be all meinis mantene and defend the same, baith in reasoning and vtherwayis, sa far as God will giue vs grace. And als wa we promise that we and ouris quhome we may command, sall diligentlie obserue and keip all the godlie exercyses of the samin Religioun, as namlie the heiring of the Word, and participatioun of the halie Sacramentis. And becaus we perceaue, that the quyetnes, and stabilitie of our Religioun and Kirk dois depend vpon the safetie and gude behaviour of the Kingis Maiestie, as vpon a comfortable Instrumēt of Goddis mercie, graunted to this Countrie, for the maintayning of his Kirk, and ministratioun of Iustice amangis vs. We protest, and promise with our heartis, vnder the same aith, handwryte, & paines that we sall defend his person and Authoritie, with our geir, bodies, and lyfis, in the defence of Christis Euangell, libertie of our Countrie, ministratioun of Iustice, and punisment of all iniquity aganis al enemies within this Realme, or without: as we delyre our God to be a strang & mercifull defender to vs in the day of our death, and cumming of our Lord Iesus Christ: To quhome with the Father and the halie Spreit, be all prais, honour, and glorie, eternallie.